GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:670
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
GLOBAL THREAT OF BIO-TERRORISM
YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level meeting of health experts` etc., was held recently on global threat of Bio-Terrorism;

(b) if so, the findings of the meeting; and

(c) the steps are being taken to implement the findings?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 670 FOR 21ST NOVEMBER 2001

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) Two expert group meetings were held (1st & 17th October) under the chairmanship of Dr. C.P. Thakur, Hon`ble Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare to review the management (diagnosis, treatment, IEC activities etc.) of recently emerging diseases of public health importance like Dengue, Anthrax etc. Eminent experts in the field of medical science from different organizations in the country, senior officials of Ministry of Health & FW, and chiefs of different Government and private hospitals in Delhi participated in the meeting and deliberated on various aspects of the bio-terrorism in the backdrop of the current global situation.

Ministry of Health & FW has convened a meeting-cum workshop on Biological & Chemical Terrorism on 29th October 2001 at New Delhi wherein Health Secretary, Home Secretary and Director of Health Services from various States and Union Territories, eminent experts in the field of medical science from different organizations in the country and heads of different hospitals in Government and private sector in Delhi participated and deliberated on various aspects.

The officials from the State Governments gave a brief account of their preparedness to tackle bio-chemical terrorism.All of them assured that they have got the expertise and sufficient stock of medicines to tackle the situation.